

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner had identified 2 species of the claimed invention:

Group I, drawn to Figure 1B; and

Group II, drawn to Figure 3A.

Applicant provisionally elects Group I, drawn to Figure 1B with traverse. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are readable thereon.

Applicant's invention is a connector means to prevent the separation of the two parts of a container after they are separated. The connector means may be inserted into the container or be placed around the container at the point of the separation. In one embodiment, the connector means comprises a short section of flexible material with multiple longitudinal channels along its perimeter wherein the connector means is inserted into an elongated container and positioned at an opening means to retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container. In another embodiment, the connector means comprises a short cylindrical section of flexible material with multiple elongated openings around its circumference wherein the connector means is placed around an opening means of an elongated container to retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container. The two embodiments are simply variations of the applicant's invention.

Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Application No.: 10/645,135
Amendment dated: March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: January 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

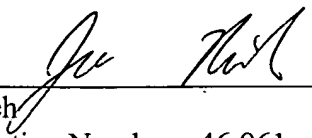


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